



Rimona of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale

By Eric A. Kimmel

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A North African version of Snow White, with 40 thieves in the role of the seven dwarfs. Eric Kimmel has completely reworked the story by turning Rimona into a "fearless young woman who rode with the reckless daring of a Bedouin horseman." Beautiful, layered watercolor illustrations greatly enhance the story. Full color.

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Rimonah of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale By Eric A. Kimmel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Snow White meets Ali Baba in this adaptation of a North African fairy tale. The heroine, Rimonah (the name means "pomegranate"), has skin as dark as a pomegranate, eyes bright as pomegranate seeds and a voice sweet as pomegranate juice. Her fate is much like Snow White's, except that she finds refuge with bedouins, not dwarves, and learns from them how to handle a sword. Forced to flee a second time, she seeks asylum in a den of 40 thieves before a final showdown with her evil stepmother. Kimmel's writing is fluid as ever, but the design of this book is decidedly off-putting. Set in a clunky font, blocks of text, one or two per page, seemed crammed on top of the illustrations, themselves very busy. The sand-colored borders further compete for the reader's attention. Heavily overdone. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 4?Many elements of this North African version of "Snow White" are familiar: a good queen who dies, a jealous stepmother who wants to do away with her stepdaughter, a group of outcasts who provide shelter for the princess, and the heroine's deathlike trance and glass coffin. In other ways, however, Rimonah defies the passive, Eurocentric stereotype. Living with a Bedouin tribe after fleeing her stepmother, she next takes up with a band of 40 thieves. Formerly honest men, they accept Rimonah as one of their own, and she rides with them against the new queen. Kimmel's adaptation is lucid, unfolding at a leisurely pace that allows the tale to develop fully. His mastery is evident in his careful choice of words and his uncanny sense of pacing and rhythm. A note cites the source of the tale and the influences inspiring the work. The text, printed in bold, ornate type that is clear and attractive, is integrated perfectly into Rayyan's gorgeous watercolor paintings. The illustrations are full of movement and energy and make excellent use of light and shadow. The colors, at once muted and vibrant, glow on the page, lending a rich texture to the entire book. In his note, the artist states that he has combined elements of different traditions, setting the story in "...the more ambiguous world of folklore." This title deserves a place in every collection.?Donna L. Scanlon, Lancaster County Library, PA

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 5-8. A North African variant of Snow White with a jot of Ali Baba mixed in. Beautiful Princess Rimonah is ordered killed by her jealous stepmother, but her executioner frees her, and Rimonah joins a Bedouin tribe and learns the art of war. After her stepmother sees in a magic bowl that Rimonah is still alive, the princess flees once more, this time to join a band of 40 thieves. Despite her skill and wisdom, Rimonah falls prey to her stepmother's evil doing and swoons into a deathlike sleep. Only a prince's kiss saves her, and her awakening leads to her stepmother's doom. The longish text is illustrated by dreamy, dramatic watercolors featuring Arabic design elements. Kimmel states in an author's note that he came upon the story in a collection of Jewish fairy tales but reshaped it for a North African setting, incorporating feminist elements. The illustrator also plays loose with the story's origins; his artistic influences are from ancient Egypt, Judaea, Persia, the Ottoman Empire, and Morocco. Children, of course, will not care much about folkloric sources, relishing instead the excitement and romanticism the story generates. *Ilene Cooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Ochoa:

This Rimona of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Rimona of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale without we understand teach the one who reading it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't be worry Rimona of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale can bring when you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Rimona of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale having excellent arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

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